



**THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF**  
**The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd**  
**January 7, 2026**

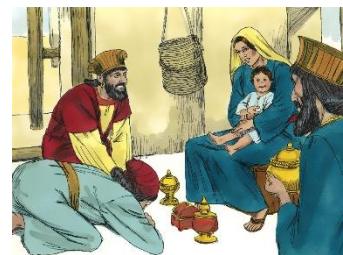
Our mission: To **Worship** God, to **Serve** our neighbors, to **Proclaim** the Good News

*Please check out the **church calendar** available on our website.*

[www.goodshepherdwv.org](http://www.goodshepherdwv.org)

**From the Rector**

*Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another way.*



The end of the gospel passage from Matthew that we read together at the celebration of the Feast of Epiphany yesterday. Recall that Epiphany means “glorious appearance” or “manifestation.” On Epiphany, we celebrate Jesus’ messiahship being made manifest to the three wiseman. Something that is often overlooked is the fact that the wiseman went home by a different way. Of course they did not want to go back to Herod, whose motives were suspect, but we often forget that “a different way” can have multiple meanings in scripture. Repentance means “turning around” or “going a different direction.” It need not always mean admitting sin or a wrong-doing. It can mean recognizing one has changed and so must one’s path going forward. I like to believe the wiseman were so profoundly affected by their encounter with the toddler Jesus, that their way, their journey, would never quite be the same again. What direction do you need to change in your own life? Perhaps it’s something you have outgrown or an area in need of next steps. Perhaps it is something entirely different. May you have the courage to choose a different way this season, and may Jesus be manifest in every step.

*Katie Beth+*



## **Candidates for election at the Annual Meeting on January 25 For Vestry**

### **Carolynne Cooper**

My husband, David, and I have been members of Good Shepherd since 1990. We raised our children Andrew, and Rebecca here.

Since 1990, I have taught Sunday School and volunteered in and directed VBS. I was on vestry once, many years ago, for 5 years. (I completed an unfinished term and was elected for the following term.)

Presently, I volunteer in Reading Camp, I lead children's chapel and I lead the Good Shepherd Church Drama Group. I was on the discernment committee for finding our present priest, Katie Beth.

I would be glad to serve on the vestry again at this time.

### **Karen Miller**

I am a cradle Episcopalian, born and raised in Rapid City, South Dakota. I met Doc Phillips, a priest at my home church in the mid 1970's and a former priest at Good Shepherd....small world after all.

I lived in numerous locations across the U.S. before ending up in Parkersburg. I first attended Good Shepherd on Palm Sunday 1991 and have been here ever since.

I taught Sunday School when the kids were young and we played in the Handbell Choir. I am currently Altar Guild Chairman, sing in the choir and help with the Adopted Families Christmas Program. I have helped with the Wednesday Hot Dog Suppers and Last Sunday Suppers.

I rotated off Vestry in 2025 and would be willing to serve on Vestry again.

Thank you for considering me as a candidate again.

### **Carla Werry**

I have been a member of Good Shepherd for nearly 40 years. During that time I have been a preschool teacher. I served on Vestry in the 90's.

I decided that I could run again for Vestry after talking with Toni DeVore. I feel that I need to get more involved with the church and feel this may be the way.

### **For Diocesan Convention Delegate**

#### **Greg Cigal**

I am a confirmed Episcopalian since 1961. I was a member of Trinity, Parkersburg from 1976-1993. I joined Good Shepherd in 1994. In 2024 I was elected Convention Delegate. I assist with the food ministry, assist with the chalice and the readings on Sundays.

#### **Bob Crocker**

I started my association with Good Shepherd in 1974 when first arriving in the area as a new employee of DuPont Washington Works. In 1978 we started our globe-hopping for DuPont by first transferring to Wilmington, DE, then relocating to Luxembourg, then Columbus, OH and finally Middlesbrough England. Since marrying into the Episcopal Church in 1970, I have joined several church choirs, taught Sunday School (focusing on the tweens), organized and led Bible Studies, graduated from EFM, led Youth programs, served twice on the vestry, been a lay reader, Eucharistic Minister and Deanery and Diocesan Representative. I am certified as a Lay Eucharistic Visitor and can take communion to our remote parishioners. Since retiring from DuPont in 2011, Kuraray in 2017 and finally Pickering Associates, I've kept busy as Junior Warden, participating in the Thursday Morning Work Crew, working for our Food Ministry, maintaining the Washington Works Nature Trails, and raising our granddaughter, Eva. Linda and I have three children and seven grandchildren spread across the US from Oregon to Pennsylvania.

#### **Karen Miller**

As a cradle Episcopalian, I moved to Parkersburg from various locations across the U.S. in 1991. I have been involved in various activities at Good Shepherd.

I have attended prior conventions as a visitor and participated in the virtual conventions in 2020 and 2021. I was a delegate and attended the convention in 2024. I would be happy to represent Good Shepherd at the 2026 convention. Thank you for your consideration as a convention delegate for 2026.

## Shepherd's Closet Rummage

Deb is recovering nicely from her surgery and appreciates your prayer support. Please continue to hold your donations until she is back working. We will not have our next sale until April.



## Pledges for 2026

Thank you to everyone who made a pledge to financially support Good Shepherd in 2026. Offering envelopes are available for your use in the narthex at the back of our worship space. If you are not ready or able to pledge, you can still have envelopes – just call Ginger and she will prepare a set for you.



## Altar Flowers

Upcoming open altar flower dates are Jan. 25, Feb. 1 and 8. Altar flowers are \$40/vase; a vase for the columbarium (any Sunday all year) is \$30. Call Ginger to reserve your date and let her know what wording should go into the Sunday bulletin.



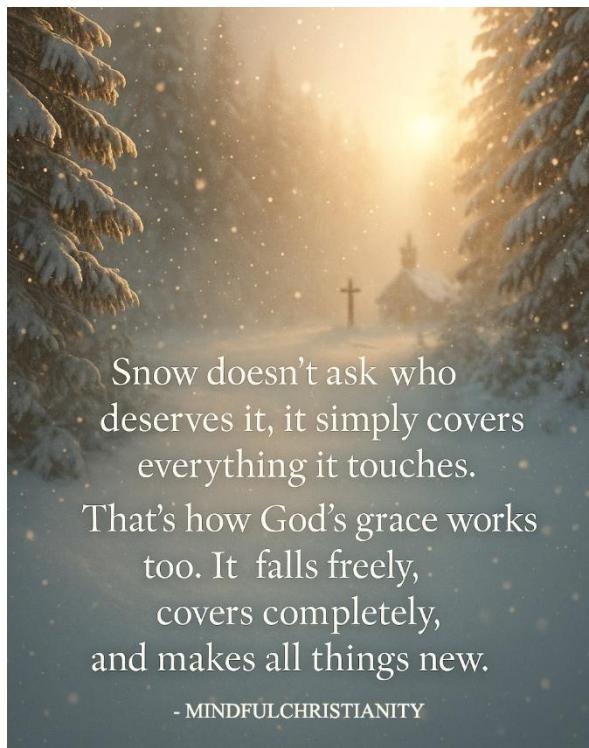
## Christmas Offering

The \$1077 collected to date will be used to support our food ministry to our unhoused neighbors. Thank you for your generosity!

## Did you lose some keys?

A set of 2 small keys with a tag that says “2 Draw Cab” were found in the narthex. Call the office if you think they might be yours.

**Found on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MINDFULCHRISTIANITY/photos>**



## Adopted Families Christmas

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way for our annual Christmas outreach to area families. We helped 43 families enjoy Christmas with the 99 children. Presents under the tree, a meal on the table, plus new socks, undies, hats, gloves, and a bag full of toiletry items for the whole family.

## Inreach Opportunities

We show our care for other members as we listen to each other, spend time together, support each other in our church ministries, share a hug during the peace, help in times of need and celebrate special moments. Those who can't be here in person are also valued members of our congregation. If you or a loved one would like a card, a visit, a meal, or a home communion, please call the office and we will connect you with someone who would love to be asked to help.

### Welcoming a note or call

Ledra Tanner: 1-740-856-5995      4022 Shervin Way, Converse, TX 78109

#### ♥ Pastoral Care

Someone is in the office Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you need pastoral care outside office hours, contact Toni DeVore or Linda Crocker (see below for our contact information).. Additionally, the Eucharistic Visitors can offer a visit and/or home communion to those who can't come to church – just ask!

#### ♥ Prayer Chain

We have a group of people who pray for those having emergency situations – surgery, accidents, or other crises. Linda Crocker makes the calls using the One Call system when she is notified by a church member of an immediate need. If you want to be added to the prayer chain let Linda know (304-210-5591). **God hears all our prayers** – you don't need a special gift to pray for healing and comfort for those in distress. All prayer chain calls remain confidential.



## Staying Connected, Continuing to Serve

### Intercessory Prayers:

During your prayer time use the lists below to remember those who have asked for our prayers:



#### Good Shepherd Parish Prayer List

The People of Israel and Gaza  
The People of Ukraine  
Victims of gun violence  
Buck Harris – strength/healing  
Tom Fielder – healing  
Vickie Dilley – healing/strength  
Wanda Grace Mitchell –healing  
Deb Hepburn-McKinney – healing

Marcia Doyle – healing  
Susan Allander – healing  
Nicole Combs - healing  
Ann Stevens– healing  
Amanda Morris – healing  
Gene Allander – healing  
Rich Dalzell - healing

Mary Gevas – healing  
Julie Stover - healing  
Peter Gevas – healing  
Dee Milhoan – healing  
Jone Johnson – healing/strength  
Peggy Roberts - healing  
Joseph Fielder – continued healing

#### *Safety for all those serving in the Armed Forces*

Sterling Slusher, Lauren Fielder, Peter Keiser

#### *Those needing healing from cancer*

Hal Foss  
Alana Dailey  
Faith Beha

Julia Lee  
Chris Angotti  
Mirtala Smith

John Stevens  
Doris Lowe  
Everett Gilmore

Judy McCoy  
Gary Greer  
Charles Sterchak

Wendy Meridith  
Lois Switzer

#### *Death* Dianna Quick

## Outreach Programs

- ♥ **Donuts** - We make day-old donuts available to our neighbors and the homeless. Thank you to McHappy's and to those who make sure the donuts are picked up daily.
- ♥ **Little Free Library** – Filling the church neighborhood with books to read. Your donations are always welcome. We especially need kids' books.
- ♥ **Last Sunday Supper** – The next meal will be Sunday, January 25. Come help set-up and cook at 1 PM or come help serve and clean-up at 5:15 PM. We begin serving at 5:30 and continue until 6:15 (or earlier if we run out of food). We are usually out of the building by 7 or 7:15.
- ♥ **Food Pantry** – If you would like to help handing out food bags to the unhoused or preparing food orders in the pantry for our housed clients, the current need is someone on Monday afternoon. We also need subs occasionally. Contact Linda if you can serve a few hours weekly or just as needed. Also, **we need your used bags**, doubled if possible.
- ♥ **Adopted Families** – see the article above

## New Possibilities:

### Fix-It Clinic

Recruit some volunteers with a variety of practical skills.

Invite our neighbors to bring their broken or non-working items and stay to work with an 'expert' to mend/fix them. Items like small electronics, bikes, fishing equipment, clothes needing repairs, lamps, etc.

Read more here: <https://fixitclinic.blogspot.com/>

### Project Transformation

Expand/develop Reading Camp into a 7-8 week summer program using curriculum developed by this group.

Read more here: <https://projecttransformation.org/about-us/curriculum>

Contact Linda if you are interested in either of these ideas.

### Coming Up:

**January 25** – Annual Meeting – Reports and election of new Vestry members and Convention Delegates

**February 8** – Souper Bowl Sunday – Annual collection of non-perishables for our Food Pantry

**February 17** – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper – details to follow

**February 18** – Ash Wednesday

## Contact Information:

The Rev. Katie Beth Miksa	304-428-1525, ext. 4	<a href="mailto:rector.goodshepherdwva@gmail.com">rector.goodshepherdwva@gmail.com</a>
Ginger Smith, Parish Administrator	304-428-1525, ext. 1	<a href="mailto:gingersmith.goodshepherdwva@gmail.com">gingersmith.goodshepherdwva@gmail.com</a>
Linda Crocker, Parish Ministries	304-428-1525, ext. 5	<a href="mailto:LLBC100@msn.com">LLBC100@msn.com</a>
Toni DeVore, Senior Warden	304-991-2259	<a href="mailto:drtld51@gmail.com">drtld51@gmail.com</a>

## One Call system 1-877-698-3261

This is the way we notify our members of important announcements.

Caller ID will say that the call is from Good Shepherd but it is really from One Call.

**Call the number above if you need a message from the church repeated.**

If you are not receiving messages, contact Linda to be added to our call list.

# Epiphany Celebration and Chili Cook-Off



**Game:**  
Pin the swaddling cloth  
on Baby Jesus

Contestants



Artist



**Courtney with the King Cake  
she made**



**Enjoying  
Chili, Corn Muffins,  
King Cake, and  
Friends**

